



Fountaindale Public  
Library District

Bolingbrook  
300 W. Briarcliff Road  
Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440  
(630)759-2102

Romeoville  
201 Normantown Road  
Romeoville, Illinois 60441  
(815)886-2030

<http://www.fountaindale.lib.il.us>

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Director

BB LIBRARY 2004

# Why Was The Library Closed???? (WITH PICTURES)

## *A Fact Sheet about the library closing*

### *Welcome Back!*

We want to welcome you back to the library in Bolingbrook and thank you for your patience and understanding during our closing.

#### **Why was the library closed?**

The library was closed due to a loss of power. The power failure happened on Wednesday, March 17 around 6:30 p.m.

#### **What happened?**

Water leaked into an underground conduit and into an electrical panel in the lower level mechanical room. It caused a short and burned out the panel. The Bolingbrook Fire Department extinguished a small electrical fire in the area.

#### **How did water get into the conduit?**

Ground water had collected around the conduit and over the years had eroded the exterior of the conduit. We found numerous holes in the conduit that allowed water inside. The water eventually leaked into the electrical panel.

#### **Why did it take so long to get repairs completed?**

The electricians were on site the following day assessing the damage. Some of the gear in the electrical panel was original with the building and no longer available for purchase. It had to be actually manufactured by a company located in the Chicago area. The conduit was underground and so the driveway had to be excavated to expose the conduit for replacement. This work was all completed and we were ready to open, but the next day there was more water. It was determined that the more extensive excavation was needed and the conduit that runs under a ComEd owned transformer would have to be replaced. This work required that ComEd use a crane to remove the transformer so that the electricians could replace the conduit! It was necessary to coordinate the work of the electricians, the excavators, and ComEd.

#### **Is everything okay now?**

The entire length of conduit from the transformer to the electrical panel in the building has been replaced. Drainage tile around the area has also been replaced to take care of any ground water that collects. The area is dry and will be closely monitored.

#### **Was there any other damage in the library?**

There was no other damage to the library. All of the damage was confined to the mechanical room area.

#### **What is the financial impact to the library?**

We anticipate the most of the cost for this repair will be covered under the library's insurance policy.

#### **What did the employees from Bolingbrook do during the time the library was closed?**

Most of employees from Bolingbrook were assigned to work at the library in Romeoville. Much of the work of the library continued. Mail, book orders, magazines continued to be received and processed. Children's programs scheduled for Bolingbrook were offered in Romeoville. Returns continued in Bolingbrook and some of the employees from Bolingbrook remained to keep the returns processed and shelved. On many days they worked without power and without heat. The other business of the library also needed to continue with payroll preparation, purchase orders and receipt of bills and invoices. Everyone was productive during this time, although many employees were displaced and their work routine interrupted. The good spirits and work commitment of the employees of both library facilities is to be commended.

#### **What if I have books that were due while the library was closed?**

Fines for any overdue books during the time the library was closed will be waived.

*We welcome you back!!!*

*Karen T. Anderson, Director  
&  
Fountaindale Library Staff*



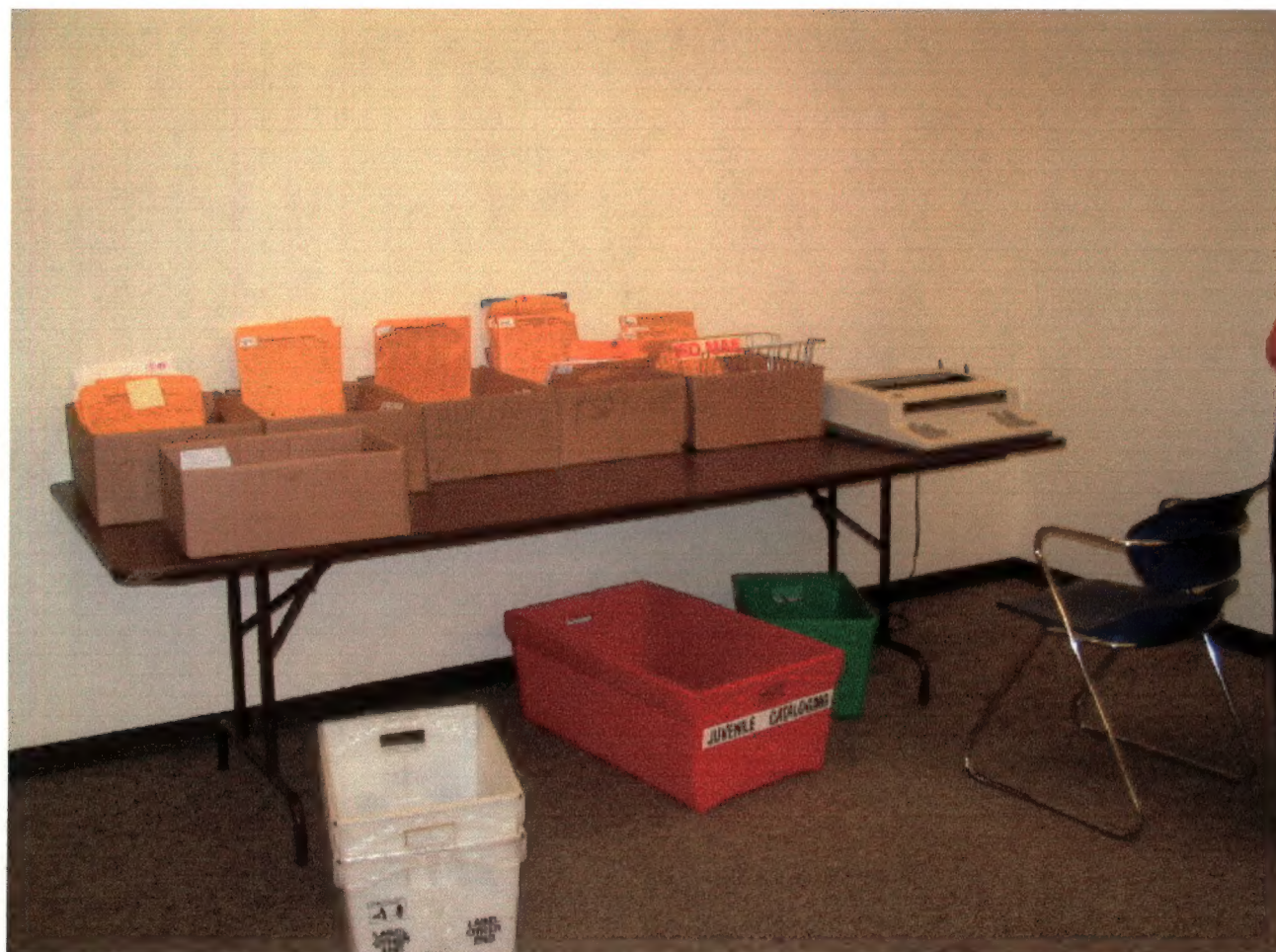




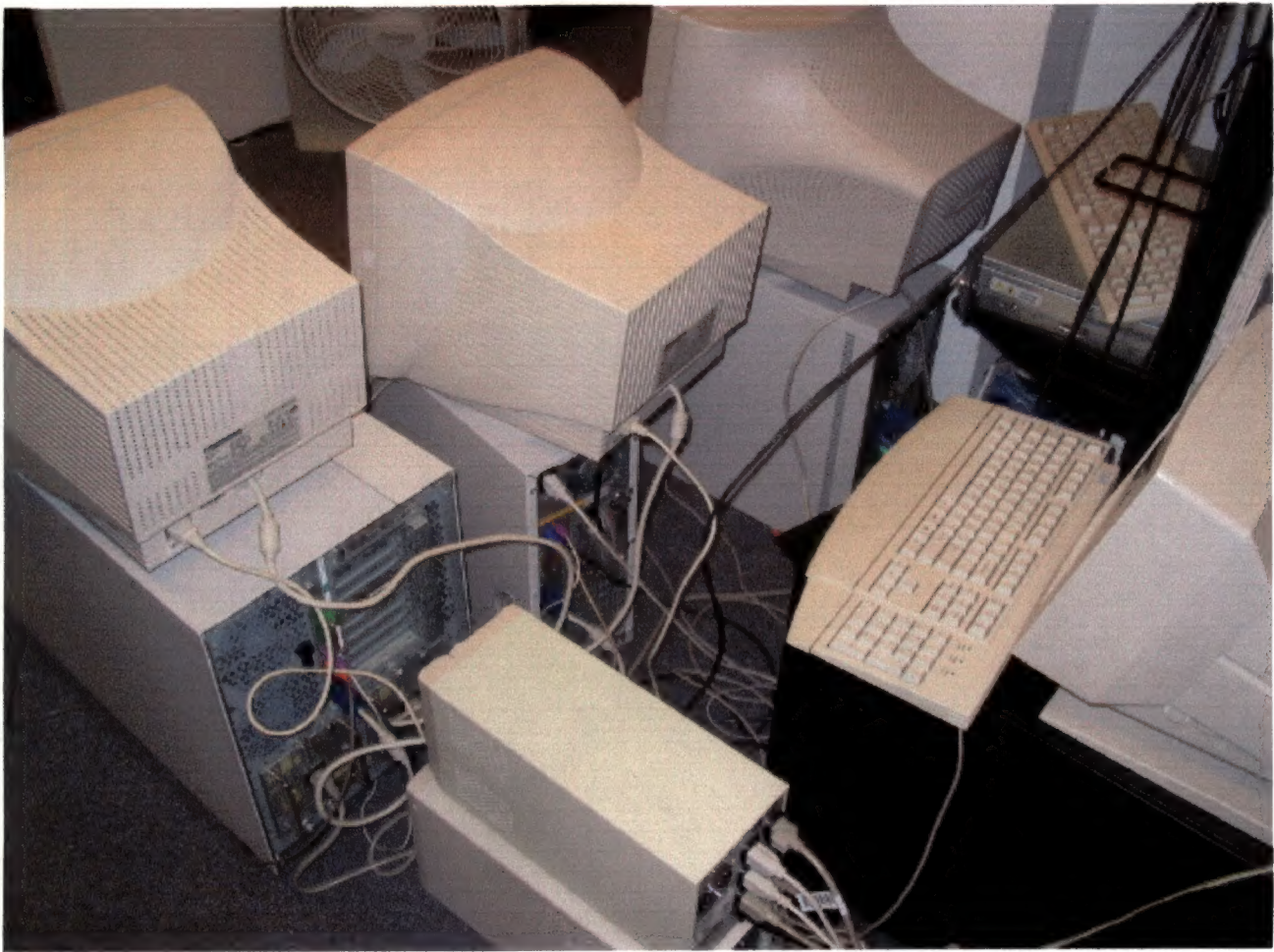








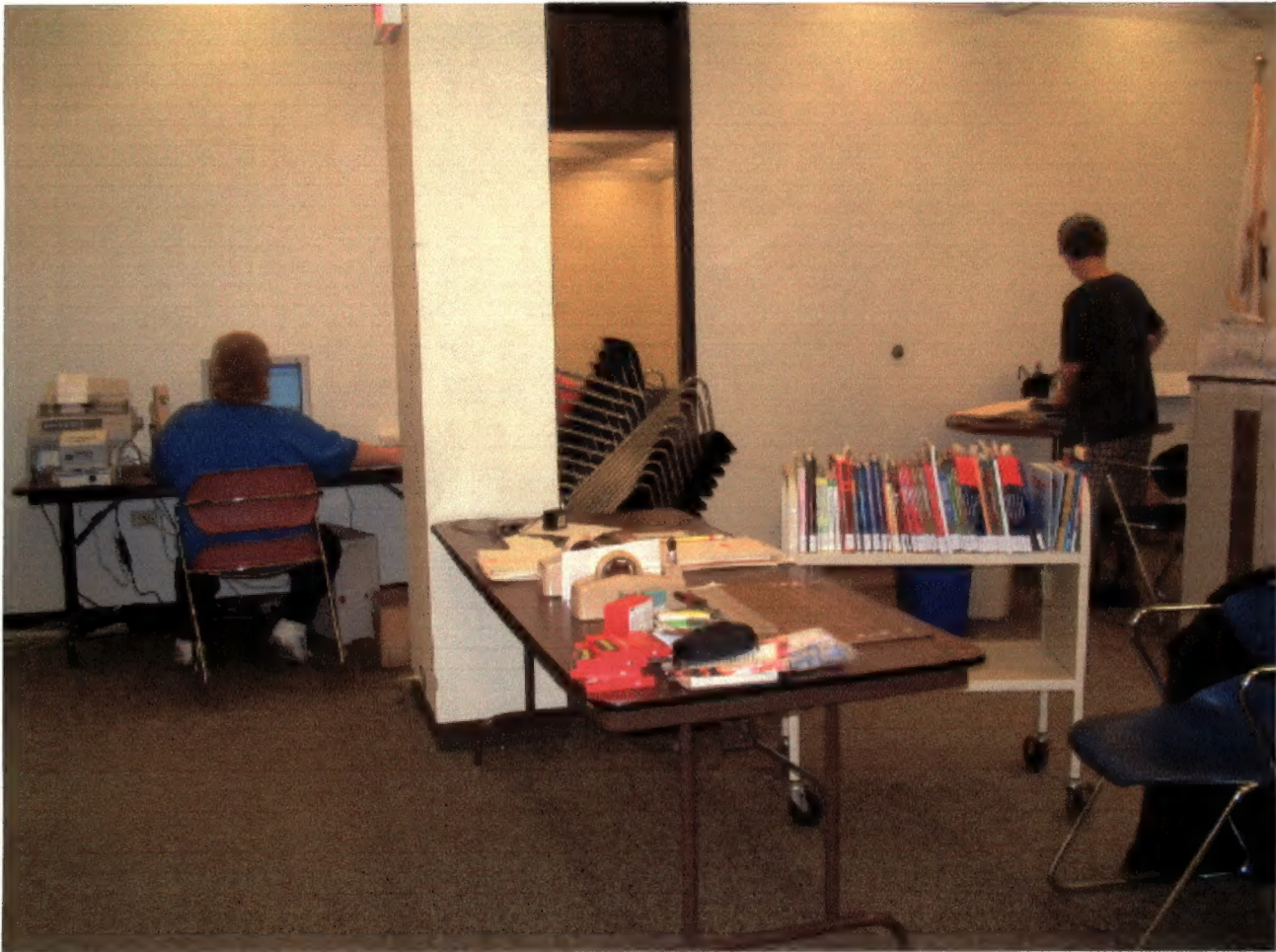


















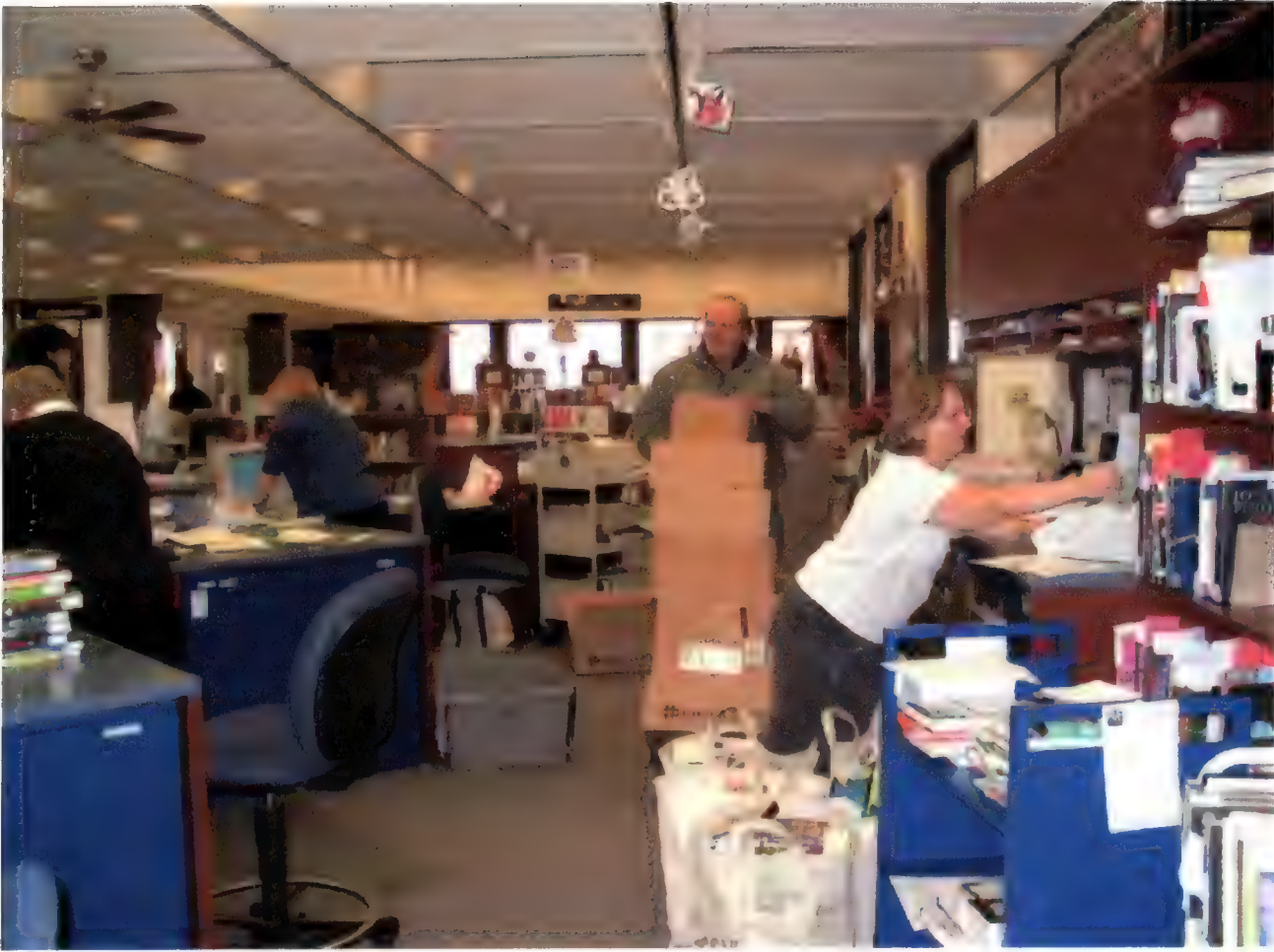


















# Bolingbrook Library remains in dark

By Catherine Ann Velasco  
STAFF WRITER

**BOLINGBROOK** — With her trusty little flashlight, circulation assistant Mary Rachal works in the dark, putting books back on the shelves of the Bolingbrook Fountaindale Library.

"When the sun is shining we don't need the flashlights by the windows," Rachal said.

For two weeks, a handful of staff members has been working in dark, cold and damp conditions — and for a couple of days without bathroom facilities. Currently, electricians are working to repair damage that occurred at about 6:30 p.m. March 17 in the mechanical room of the Bolingbrook Library, 300 W. Briarcliff Road. Staff reported hearing a series of loud booms as the building lost power.

Water got into an underground conduit that eroded over the years and shorted out the panel in the mechanical room, said Library Director Karen Anderson.

As of Wednesday, Anderson did not have a date to re-open the library.

Residents can call (630) 759-2102 for updates on the situation.

After power is restored, the heating and phone systems must be checked to see if there was damage from the electrical surge.

"For these ladies who stayed, it really has been difficult," Anderson said.

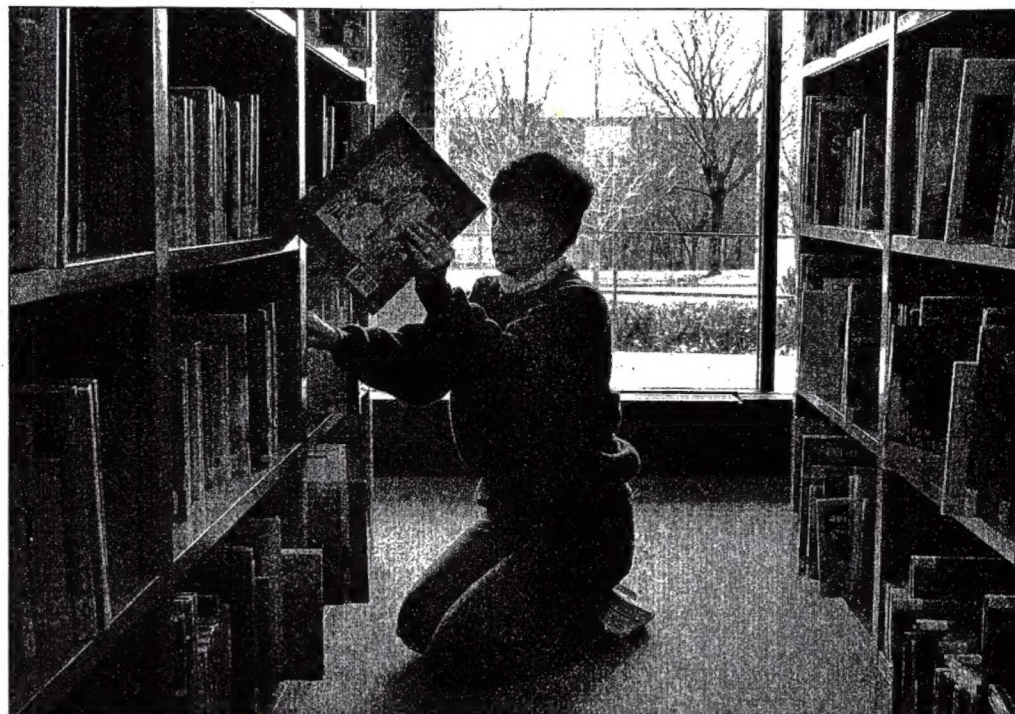
Even without power, thousands of books are being returned to the Bolingbrook library by patrons who get out of their cars and walk around the repair trucks, Anderson said.

Cindy Palermo, head of circulation for the Bolingbrook library, has stayed to get a handle on the books.

Palermo said staff bags the books that people drop off in Bolingbrook and a courier takes them to Romeoville to be checked back in by computer. Then, a courier returns the books to be shelved by staff and their flashlights.

Bolingbrook staff has already shelved 43 carts of books, which equals to about 25,800 books.

Now, there are more books than space in the Bolingbrook Library.



**Bolingbrook Fountaindale Library technical services worker Danetta Gatz shelves books Wednesday by window light. The library has been without power since March 17 when a transformer went out.**

JOHN PATSCH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

There are also no more carts left so they are putting books in alphabetical order on tables and in some cases on top of books on the shelves to show where they belong.

However, there are 11 carts of 6,600 adult nonfiction books that still need to be shelved downstairs. Staff is waiting until the lights go back on and the elevator is working again before they go down there.

"Vicky (Greear) and I are turning into the mole people from Flash Gordon — working in the dark and coming out when it's dark," Palermo said.

In the past two weeks, Palermo said the worst time was the first couple of days when the temperatures were in the 30s and 40s.

"I had to wear gloves and keep my

coat on," Palermo said.

At that time, they didn't have a generator so they worked without a bathroom.

Auriene said staff had to take apart the computer system, including 90-pound servers, and move them to Romeoville in order to have library services, such as Internet and e-mail.

Anderson said they are running a full service library from collecting books to calling people with books on hold. People can pick up the books at the Romeoville Library or on the Bookmobile.

Palermo said this is the longest time the Bolingbrook Library has ever been closed. There have been power outages in the past, closing the library down for a couple of days — but never this long.

In Romeoville, the library's parking

lot at 201 Normantown Road is more packed than normal due to staff and patrons from Bolingbrook's library.

Anderson sees good opportunities from the power outage. Staff from both libraries are meeting each other. Patrons who have never been to the Romeoville Library are getting to see it and see a different collection of movies and books. Other patrons are getting to use the Bookmobile for the first time.

While the Bolingbrook Library is closed, the Bookmobile is in the library's parking lot during the days Monday through Friday. Staff who have to share offices are having fun.

"I'm from a big family. Crowds are happy for me," said Carla Chlebanowski, administrator's assistant. "We are a lot more crowded than normal, but I'm having fun."

## In Brie

Area news our

### Fund-raising effort

**YORKVILLE** — Fom County Deputy Allen Va of tongue cancer this mo

To raise money for m funeral expenses, friend Valerius have set up a W The site, [www.AllenStor.com](http://www.AllenStor.com), provides information abo donating to Valerius' wif stepson as well as photo became ill.

According to Jennifer who started the Web sit also are plans for fund-ra the Yorkville McDonald Mary Kay Cosmetics do portion of their proceeds family. The information ' posted on the Web site.

Valerius was diagnos cancer after a sore on hi was found to be maligna March 16 at the age of 2 — *The Beacon News*

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LIBRARY



# Bolingbrook Fountaindale Library still in the dark

By Catherine Ann Velasco  
SUN NEWS SERVICES

With her trusty little flashlight, circulation assistant Mary Rachal works in the dark, putting books back on the shelves of the Bolingbrook Fountaindale Library.

"When the sun is shining we don't need the flashlights by the windows," Rachal said.

For two weeks, a handful of staff members has been working in dark, cold and damp conditions — and for a couple of days without bathroom facilities. Electricians are working to repair damage that occurred about 6:30 p.m. March 17 in the mechanical room of the library, at 300 W. Briarcliff Road. Staff members reported hearing a series of loud booms as the building lost power.

Water got into an underground conduit that had eroded over the years and shorted out the panel in the mechanical room, said Karen Anderson, library director.

As of Wednesday there was no date set for the library's re-opening, Anderson said.

"We will open at our earliest opportunity," she said, adding that electricians found more water in the building Wednesday morning.

Residents can call (630) 759-2102 for updates on the situation.

After power is restored, the heating and phone systems must be checked to see if there was damage from the electrical surge.

"For these ladies who stayed, it really has been difficult," Anderson said.

Even without power, thousands of books are being returned to the library by patrons who have to get out of their cars and walk around the repair trucks, Anderson said.

Cindy Palermo, head of circulation, has stayed to get a handle on the books.

Palermo said staff members bag the books that people drop off in Bolingbrook and a courier takes them to the Romeoville branch of the Fountaindale Library to be checked back in by computer. Then a courier returns the books to be shelved by staff members, with their flashlights.

The staff has already shelved 43 carts of books, which is about 25,800 books.

Now there are more books than space in the Bolingbrook library. There are also no more carts left. They are putting books in alphabetical order on tables and in some cases on top of books on the shelves to show where they belong.

But there are 11 carts of 6,600 adult nonfiction books that still need to be shelved downstairs. The staff is waiting until the lights are on and the elevator is working again before they go down there.

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In the past two weeks, Palermo said, the worst time was the first couple of days when the temperatures were in the 30s and 40s.

"I had to wear gloves and keep my coat on," Palermo said.

At that time they did not have a generator, so they worked without a bathroom.

"I run out to go to the bathroom at McDonald's, pick up lunch and go back. I'm very familiar with the McDonald's bathroom," Palermo said.

The staff often turns to humor for relief.

"Cindy, I can't see in here. Could you please turn on the lights?" asked Pat Auriene, head of technical services.

Auriene said the staff had to take apart the computer system, including 90-pound servers, and move them to Romeoville so Bolingbrook patrons could have access to library services such as Internet and e-mail.

Anderson said they are running a full-service library, from collecting books to calling people with books on hold. People can pick up the books at the Romeoville library or on the Bookmobile. While the Bolingbrook library is closed, the Bookmobile is in the library's parking lot during the days Mondays through Fridays.

Palermo said this is the longest time the Bolingbrook library, which has 40,000 patrons and 103 staff members, has ever been closed. There have been power outages in the past, closing the li-

brary down for a couple of days, but never for this long. Palermo said she feels sorry for students who need to do reports and have to get a ride to the Romeoville library, and the regulars who like to come in for coffee from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and read the paper.

In Romeoville, the library's parking lot at 201 Normantown Road is more packed than normal, with staff members and patrons from Bolingbrook's library.

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members from both libraries are getting to meet each other. Patrons who have never been to the Romeoville library are getting to see it and see a different collection of movies and books, while other patrons are getting to use the Bookmobile for the first time.

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# Darkness ready to be lifted at Bolingbrook public library

By Catherine Ann Velasco  
SUN NEWS SERVICES

**BOLINGBROOK** — The Bolingbrook Fountaindale Public Library will reopen today after being closed since March 17 when a transformer malfunctioned.

Staff members are spending the next couple of days returning the computer servers back to the library and putting 7,800 books back on the shelves. The library, at 300 W. Briarcliff Road, got back its electricity Thursday after 21 days without power.

On Friday, the heat and the phones were working again after being checked to see if there was damage to the systems from the electrical surge.

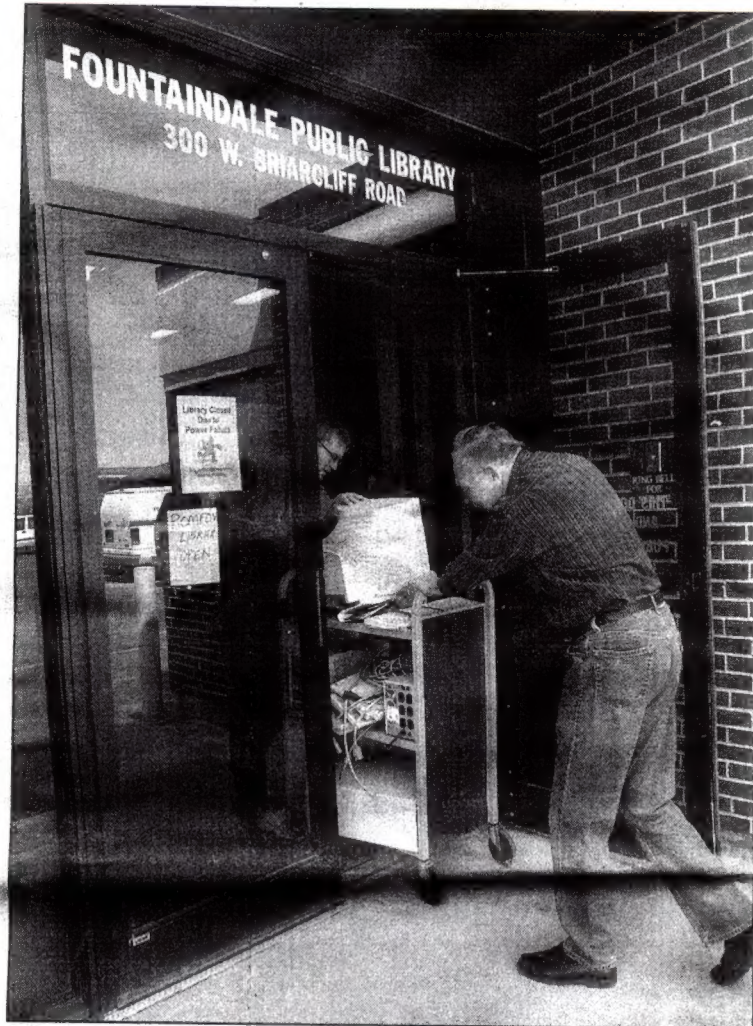
"It is a big relief," library spokeswoman Amy Lewkowski said. "The staff is trying to get everything back in order."

Around 6:30 p.m. March 17, staff members reported hearing a series of loud booms as the building lost power. Water got into an underground conduit that eroded over the years and shorted out the panel in the mechanical room, Library Director Karen Anderson said.

To keep the library functional, the staff had to take apart the computer system, including 90-pound servers, and move them from Bolingbrook to Romeoville. This allowed for the continuation of library services such as Internet and e-mail.

Even without power, thousands of books were returned to the library by patrons who had to get out of their cars and walk around the repair trucks. Those books were then sent by courier to the Romeoville library to be checked backed in by computer, then returned to Bolingbrook to be shelved on the first floor.

In the dark by flashlight, staff members put 25,800 books back on the shelves on the first floor. However, the adult nonfiction books couldn't be reshelfed downstairs



Sun news services

**Rodger Gotham, right, a computer support specialist, and circulation aide Greg Rupsis move computers back into the Fountaindale Public Library in Bolingbrook on Friday in preparation for the reopening today. A transformer went out in mid-March, leaving the library in the dark. The computer system was moved to the Romeoville branch library until the problem was fixed.**

because the elevator wasn't working and because it was too dark.

While the Bolingbrook library was closed, the Bookmobile was open in the parking lot. Bolingbrook staff worked in the Romeoville library where employees shared offices.

Despite having one building shut down, the library's employ-

ees were able to continue their tradition of putting together 45 Easter baskets for adults and children. The baskets were given to DuPage Township, where they will be distributed.

"We did really good," Lewkowski said. "We were proud of that. People will be enjoying them on Easter."

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# Bolingbrook library reopens

**By Megan Brody**  
Staff writer

The Bolingbrook branch of the Fountaindale Public Library was reopened April 12 after closing its doors for nearly a month due to a power failure at 6:30 p.m. March 17.

Library Director Karen Anderson said library traffic was higher than normal upon reopening.

"People have been waiting for us to reopen. Although we had full service in Romeoville, some people just couldn't get there," Anderson said.

The library was forced to shut down after water leaked into an underground conduit and into an electrical panel in the lower level mechanical room. It caused a short and burned out the panel. The Bolingbrook Fire Department extinguished a small electrical fire in the area.

Over the years, ground water collected around the conduit and eroded its exterior, according to library officials. This caused numerous holes in the conduit allowing water inside. The water eventually leaked into the electrical panel.

"Repairs were more extreme than originally anticipated. With electricity, you don't just do it half-way," Anderson said of the extended period of time the library was closed.

Some of the gear in the electrical panel had to be specially manufactured, according to library officials. The work was completed, and the library was ready to open when more water appeared. It was discovered the conduit had to be replaced. The repairs required the coordinating efforts of the electricians, excavators and Commonwealth Edison. There was no other damage to the library.

Most of the staff was combined with the staff in the Romeoville branch. However, some workers remained at the Bolingbrook branch, checking in books, among other duties. The employees worked several days without light until a portable generator was brought in. The employees were then able to see but they did not have heat, according to Anderson.

Megan Brody's e-mail address is:  
mab@libertysuburban.com

## Romeoville eyes new fast food restaurants

**By Kevin Saylor**  
Correspondent

Romeoville could soon be the location of a new Taco Bell and Long John Silver's restaurant.

"We have a proposal for a Taco Bell/Long John Silver's," said Natalie Rhuby, staff planner. "The proposal is for the Williams subdivision, which is the subdivision where Jewel

If approved, the proposed facility, which would feature a drive-through and full menus for each restaurant, will be located at the northwest corner of Weber Road and Highpoint Drive.

The Planning and Zoning Commission was scheduled to hold a public meeting April 13 to discuss the restaurant application. Subse-



Staff photo by Ron Koopmann